



FACT SHEET: P3 Award – A Student Design Competition for Sustainability

EPA and its partners (see back of page for list) launched the **P3 Award** in 2003 to promote innovative thinking for moving the world toward sustainability. Through this national student design competition, college students gain new skills and knowledge as they research, develop, design, and implement scientific and technical solutions to environmental challenges.

WHAT IS P3? P3 is the next step beyond P2 -- pollution prevention -- and focuses on the three components of sustainability: *People, Prosperity* and the *Planet*.

WHAT IS THE P3 AWARD COMPETITION? The competition has two phases. Initially, student teams compete for \$10,000 grants. Recipients use the money to research and develop their design projects during the academic year. Then, in the following spring, all P3 grant recipients are invited to Washington, D.C. to compete for the P3 Award. The National Academies, advisors to the nation on science, engineering, and medicine, convene a panel to evaluate and recommend the award winners. The final award decisions are made by EPA.

WHAT IS THE P3 AWARD? The P3 Award is given to the highest-rated student designs. The award includes additional funding up to \$75,000 that gives the students an opportunity to further develop their designs for sustainability, implement their projects in the field, and move them to the marketplace.

WHAT CATEGORIES ARE ELIGIBLE FOR THE P3 AWARD? EPA considers challenges from a wide range of categories, including agriculture, built environment, ecosystems, materials and chemicals, energy, information resources, and water. Challenges related to population growth and medical care, while important, are not included in this competition, other than the delivery or distribution systems of knowledge, goods, and supplies.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE? Institutions of higher education located in the U.S. are eligible to apply as the recipients of grants to support teams of undergraduate and/or graduate students. Collaboration and partnerships with colleges and universities outside the United States are permitted, but only U.S. institutions are eligible to apply.

HOW TO APPLY: Application procedures and materials can be found at: www.epa.gov/P3. Information about awards can also be found at this Web site.

APPLICATION REVIEW: A peer review panel evaluates all P3 applications based on problem definition; innovation and technical merit; connections to sustainability in terms of P3; measurable results, evaluation method, implementation strategy; and integration of the P3 Award competition as an educational tool. Final funding decisions are made by EPA.

CONTACT: Cynthia Nolt-Helms, U.S. EPA, Office of Research and Development, Washington, DC; Telephone: 202-343-9693; Fax: 202-233-0678; or email: nolt-helms.cynthia@epa.gov or visit the P3 Web site at www.epa.gov/P3.

P3 Award partners currently include 42 organizations from government, industry and non-governmental organizations participating in the implementation of the competition:

Government

National Aeronautics and Space
Administration (NASA)
National Science Foundation
Office of the Federal Environmental
Executive
United States Agency for International
Development
United States Department of Agriculture
White House Council on Environmental
Quality
White House Office of Science and
Technology Policy

Industry

DaimlerChrysler
Dell
Herman Miller
Hewlett-Packard
Nexant
US Business Council for Sustainable
Development

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)

Association of American Geographers
American Chemical Society
American Institute of Chemical Engineers
American National Standards Institute
American Society for Engineering Education
American Society of Civil Engineers
American Society of Mechanical Engineers
Association of Environmental Engineering
and Science Professors

NGOs (continued)

Association of University Leaders for Sustainable Future
ASTM International Campus
Decade of Education for Sustainable Development
Education for Sustainability Western Network
Engineers Forum for Sustainability
Engineers without Borders
Engineers for a Sustainable World
Global Environment and Technology
Foundation
Green Chemistry Institute
Industrial Design Society of America
Institute for Electrical and Electronics
Engineers
Institute for Society, Ecology, and
Environment
International Center for Appropriate and
Sustainable Technology (ICAST)
Massachusetts Toxics Use Reduction
Institute
National Center for Manufacturing Sciences
The National Collegiate Inventors and
Innovators Alliance (NCIIA)
National Council for Science and the
Environment
US Green Buildings Council
US Partnership for the UN Decade for
Education for Sustainable
Development
WERC: A Consortium for Environmental
Education and Technology
Development
World Resources Institute

